

University, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, and UMass-Amherst. Turley Publications has been printing the Daily Collegian, the UMass Amherst student newspaper, since that publication went daily in 1967. It also prints other newspapers, including the Worcester Business Journal and its sister publications Hartford Business Journal, and MaineBiz, as well as the Holden Landmark.

Today, Turley Publications remains locally owned and operated by Patrick Turley and his sons Keith and Doug. They are responsible for nearly 250 employees working in various locations. The two main production facilities are located in West Springfield and Palmer, Massachusetts.

Turley Publications was forced to stop the presses in October 2005 when floodwater caused property losses over 900 thousand dollars. I visited Turley Publications immediately after the flooding occurred and can personally attest to the severity of the damage at the Water Street facility in Palmer.

But high water didn't stop Patrick Turley from tackling the job that needed to be done. He decided he wasn't going to miss a deadline. Dedicated employees helped with the cleanup, electricity was restored, and 2 university newspapers were printed on time. Turley received an SBA disaster loan and within 5 months the plant was running once more at full capacity.

I had the honor of meeting with Patrick Turley and his wife Ann today when they visited my Washington office. I would like to echo the accolades of the Small Business Administration in recognizing Patrick Turley as an extraordinary businessman and citizen. Congratulations.

COMMON-SENSE GUN LEGISLATION IS NEEDED NOW

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to the families of the 32 Virginia Tech students and teachers who lost their lives due to senseless gun violence on April 16, 2007. I would also like the families of Columbine High School tragedy—which occurred 8 years ago on April 20th—to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them as well. As those two tragedies demonstrate, we are not doing enough to protect our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities from gun violence. In honor of all the victims of gun violence, I call on my colleagues to pass tougher gun laws, including requiring more stringent background checks and banning the use of assault weapons and high-ammunition clips.

It is a well-known fact that it takes very little time and is very easy and for individuals to buy powerful weapons in this country. In fact, depending on the state, it takes anywhere from just 2 hours to a mere 2 minutes to conduct a background check. Since it took the assailant in the Virginia Tech case only 10 minutes to get approval to buy a gun, it is no wonder that the store from which he made his purchase missed the fact that a court had ordered him to undergo outpatient treatment. Federal law states that anyone who has been

adjudicated for being a "mental defective", as the assailant had, cannot purchase weapons. Had there not been an expedited process for buying a gun, and the background check relying on the self-reporting of mental illness, perhaps this tragedy could have been prevented. I support the efforts of my colleagues, Representatives MCCARTHY and DINGELL, to provide federal funding to states for computers systems that will allow them to promptly upload information about potential gun buyers from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As we have tragically learned, we can no longer wait for all states to get online.

Additionally, we need to renew the bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips. We have allowed this ban to expire, every day more police officers and innocent families are in sight of criminals wielding Uzis, Tec-9s, AK-47s. And, high-capacity ammunition clips—which have no purpose other than to kill people—allowed the gunman at Virginia Tech to kill 32 students and teachers. Because of the high-capacity ammunition clips, even those who survived were left with multiple bullet wounds.

Every day that we allow to pass without a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips is another day that Americans are needlessly put at risk. We need to support and pass Representative McCarthy's, H.R. 1022, the Assault Weapons Ban, which would renew that ban.

I am proud to represent the 9th Congressional District, a district that is strongly in favor of getting guns off our streets. Chicago, Wilmette, Morton Grove and Evanston have laws outlawing handguns, and I think this is a great start. We need to bring that commitment to our children's safety, to the safety of our neighborhoods, and to the safety of our schools, to the rest of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday, April 23, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 245, 246 and 247.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, April 23, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 245, 246, and 247.

H.R. 1338, THE PAYCHECK
FAIRNESS ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Equal Pay Day. Issues of equity and fairness are integral to the strength of our democracy. Pay equity, and its effect on every person in the U.S., is a vital issue and it is unconscionable that in the 21st century, the vast majority of women are still not paid fairly for their work. I look forward to the day when every person, regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity, is receiving equal pay for equal work.

According to the Census, women are paid, on average, 77 cents per one dollar earned by a man. Racial and ethnic disparities exacerbate this difference with African American women making 66 cents, Latinas making 55 cents and Asian American women making 80 cents. A recent study by the American Association of University Women reveals that the income gap between men and women widens dramatically following graduation from college, growing from a 20 percent difference immediately following graduation to a 31 percent difference ten years later. This gap persisted despite controls for numbers of hours worked, parenthood, and occupation choice.

I am a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will improve the remedies available to victims of wage discrimination based on sex. Passage of this legislation will be one of many societal changes we have seen over the past one hundred years of women's struggle for equality in America, but there remains much to be done. The current income gap continues to stand in the way of true equality and as a Nation we must work to close the gap faster than the current, abysmally slow, 1.5 cents per year. There are rays of sunshine to be seen on the horizon, but we cannot consider this particular battle won. I look forward to continuing the struggle for equality with my colleagues in Congress during the 110th Congress.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF MARTIE J.
"JAY" ABOUSSIE, JR.

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Martie J. "Jay" Aboussie, Jr., the devoted son of Martie and LeEllen Aboussie and the loving brother of Amy Aboussie.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from St. Louis University, and graduated with honors on May 14, 2005 while maintaining nearly perfect attendance in spite of his chronic health problems.

Jay's family, friends, and numerous people unknown to Jay have been inspired by his bravery, courage, and deep religious faith. He refused to surrender to the debilitating physical ailments which ultimately took his life.

Jay's leadership qualities and academic excellence were recognized by the Faculty and